taking it over by Government will be considered. I have to repeat the same answer to the taking over by the Sirkar of the road from Kuratti on the Kanjirapalli-Peruthod road to the Kanjirapalli-Kunnumbhagom road.

As regards the construction of a bridge where the Kanjirapalli-Thampalakad road crosses the Kadamanpuzha canal, an estimate is under preparation by the Chief Engineer.

90. Needs of Changanachery with special reference to Kuttanad.

MR. KURUVILA CHANDA PILLAI (*Member, Changanachery taluk, Group II*) said that in recognition of the needs of Kuttanad in the matter of means of communication, Government had decided upon the opening of a canal between Changanachery and Alleppey. But the estimate prepared for the purpose contemplated opening of a rather narrow canal only 40 feet wide. Such a canal was sure no to meet the requirements of the people. It was absolutely necessary that the canal should be at least 80 feet wide, in which case alone it would be fit for the passage of motor boats, steam boats etc. Another advantage would also follow as the direct result of increasing the width of the proposed canal. Simultaneously with the opening of the canal, a road could be formed along its bank from Changanachery to Alleppey. The need for a road connecting Alleppey with any of the flourishing trading centres in the inland was acknowledged on all hands. Nothing could be more proper than that this connection should be established between Alleppey and Changanachery and that the route of the road connecting the two places should lie through the heart of Kuttanad.

The Department of Agriculture should be directed to devote greter attention to the welfare of agriculture in Kuttanad. The chief crop cultivated in Kuttanad was of course paddy. The cultivation of paddy suffered as much from want of good ploughing as from the inroads of brine and the attack of pests like [illegible] and [illegible]. Next to paddy came cocoanut which also suffered from the attack of pests. The Department of Agriculture had not yet found out any means of meeting these troubles. The officers of the department should be instructed to spend at least three months, Vrischigam, Dhanu and Makaram in Kuttanad and to study the question.

Agricultural boards should be established in Kuttanad with a view to ensuring co-operation among the cultivators of Kuttanad and seeing that crops were raised in due time.

The present system of issuing agricultural loans should be revised. Efficient arrangements should be made for ensuring that the loans issued for particular purposes were not utilised for any other purpose. The allotment for loans every year should be enhanced. The State-aided Bank should be made responsible for issuing agricultural loans, or, in the alternative, the money issued to the bank should be recalled and distri-

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buted among cultivators. One or more land mortgage banks should be established and these should be attached to the State-aided Bank.

One or two veterinary hospitals should be established in Kuttanad.

Boats used for agricultural purposes in Kuttanad should be exempted from the payment of tolls.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Kuruvila Chandapillai, as regards the Alleppey-Changanchery canal, already two sections of the canal have been completed. Rs. 5,000 has been spent and Rs. 13,000 has been provided in this year's budget for the purpose and the work in the third section is engaging the attention of Government. As regards the road you mentioned from Alleppey to Changanachery, I may perhaps mention straightaway that the road will be a practical impossibility. The road will have to cross all the drainage courses and the canals. The cost will be exceedingly high and out of all proportion to the benefits arising from such a road. Wherever the canals are crossed, high bridges will be wanted. Then there are the backwaters to cross. So the road will not come within the range of practical politics. If, as you suggest, only ferries are provided for crossing the backwaters, then the road will be of very little use. So the best means of direct communication bewteen Alleppey and Changanachery can only be a canal.

As regards the grievances of the ryots of Kuttanad in the way of improvements to the state of agriculture and the opening of a veterinary hospital, the details were not mentioned in your list, and hence the answer is not ready. Your representations are noted and they will receive due consideration at the hands of Government.

91. Needs of the Meenachil taluk.

MR. AUGUSTHY MATHAN (*Member, Meenachil taluk, Group I*) said that the people inhabiting the eastern parts of the Meenachil taluk were put to considerable inconvenience for want of proper means of communication. There were absolutely no roads in these regions except an old road about 6 miles in length which was opened about half a century ago at the instance of the late very Rev. Archdeacon Cailey. In view of the extreme paucity of means of communication in this area, Government should devote their attention to the following matters:—

The Erattupetta-Arakulam road sanctioned by Government had not yet been completed. The local people had opened a portion of the road from Kulathur *kadavu* to Maniyurutti canal. The road should be extended from there to the Kurumannur market on the Kollapilli-Melukavu road, and from there to the Muttom Thudakanad-Arakulam road.

The works on the Plasanal-Pravithanam road, the maintenance of which had been taken over by Government, should be started and the necessary repairs made at once, so that the road might be made fit for cart traffic.

The road which the ryots had opened from the Pravithanam

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